Vol 1 Iss 2

The Rat Trap

November/December 2024

It's been two months since the first edition came out and all I can say is thank you. The response we've gotten has been crazy supportive and all the reason to keep this going. I never would have expected people to fuck with this like they do and that just goes to show what great people we're surrounded by. This is as much of a collaboration as anything and wouldn't function without the artistry of everyone. So please keep reaching out with ideas, thoughts, art, music, writing and everything in between. It really matters. The biggest goal is not just to promote the music scene but to have people learn something, and to have anyone be able to see themselves reflected in this. I'm excited to see how this will keep evolving for that to be completely true.

Happy reading from the Rat Trap xoxo,
AMV

In this issue....

Nov/Dec show dates
Palestine Resources
October Sounds by Mira
Artwork by Alex Gonzales
I Don't Like Your Band (and that's okay) by Jacob Babcock
Photos by Ben Conte, Lake Tevari, Ian Dyer, Anne Marie Vaudo
Drawings by Zoey Janusz
Scans by Iava Hohmann
Five Tabs of Acid; A Sit Down With Target Scammers
Lowell on Love
If It Pleasures the Court by Connor Leno and Eliot Piper
Lesbiana Artist Spotlight
Community Pages

Editing by Anne Marie Vaudo and Iava Hohmann

@therattrapmagazine

Drawing by Zoey Janusz

November

11.1 The Nook Tysk Tysk Task
11.1 Roscoe's Ella Nadeau, Róisín Queally, Hazel Adeline
11.2 Wheaton Art House Stay at Home Dads, Gross Girls
11.2 Tango's Jazz Night
11.2 DromNYC Lekha & Friends, Fantastic Gentlemen, Sauce City
11.6 Wonderland Stay at Home Dads
11.9 Firehouse Stay at Home Dads, Escape Durgin
11.10 Smoke house Stay at Home Dads
11.12 Thirsty First Gross Girls
11.15 The Press Room JaySync
11.15 The Valley The Whole Loaf, White Bear Principle, Easthill
11.15 The Loading Dock Tysk Tysk Task, The Worst
11.16 Tango's Post hardcore
11.29 Off The Rails Worcester The Midnight Riders with Escape Durgin
11.30 Tango's Jazz Night

December

12.6 Fox Hall Survive The Sun, Gauze Trail, Nuclear Eternity, Drowning Corpse, Cascadian
12.6 Tango's JaySync
12.6 Underhill Gross Girls
12.13 Tango's Alt-rock
12.20 The Press Room JaySync
12.20 The Valley Nightvisions, Class President, and Mt Goose

Photo by Lake Tevari

STUDY ABROAD IN "ISRAEL"

UMass Lowell offers a study abroad program in the Occupied Palestinian Territories through the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), an Israeli think tank that conducts research on military affairs and terrorism. Classes are taught by University of Tel Aviv faculty and retired **IDF generals**.

The program includes a skewed curriculum, covering topics including topics such as **"Islamic Jihadist-Sunni Terrorism as an Ongoing Challenge"** while promoting racist and bigoted Israeli policies in a favorable way.

BOYCOTT

The INSS indoctrinates students to a dangerous narrative of Israeli supremacy while ignoring the ongoing Nakba and illegal occupation and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Follow our Instagram to get access to news, updates and events. Join our WhatsApp group chat for additional information!

UMLSJP

UML SJP Community

BOYCOTT DIVEST SANCTION

BDS

فلسطين

INTRO TO UMASS LOWELL'S GENOCIDAL INITIATIVES

BDS Targets at UML

- ☑ "Israel" study abroad
- ☑ Project Future Soldier
- ☑ Project Killer Drones

UML SJP

Shenkar College of Engineering and Design

UMass Lowell's Nanomanufacturing Center of Excellence teamed up with Shenkar College back in 2010.

Massachusetts funded this research collaboration with a $5 million grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's John Adams Innovation Institute in 2005, which established UMass Lowell's Nanomanufacturing Center of Excellence.

UMass Lowell's nanomanufacturing research is also supported by National Science Foundation grants. Professors Joey Mead and Carol Barry, co-directors of the center, are collaborating with Professors Hanna Dodiuk and Sam Kenig from Shenkar.

FUTURE SOLDIER

DIVEST

CiRTex is a research institute at Shenkar College that take funds from the Israeli government to work on projects that directly supports the IDF. This research institute oversees projects centered specifically in textile innovation.

Project called **Future Soldier** is directly associated with nanotech research at UMass Lowell and is funded under the Directorate of Defense Research & Development (DDR&D) and the Israeli Ministry of Defense. It aims to create electronic sensor fabrics for the Zionist "future soldier".

Research expenditures have increased from $320 million in 2003 to $536 million in 2010 due to the collaboration with Shenkar College.

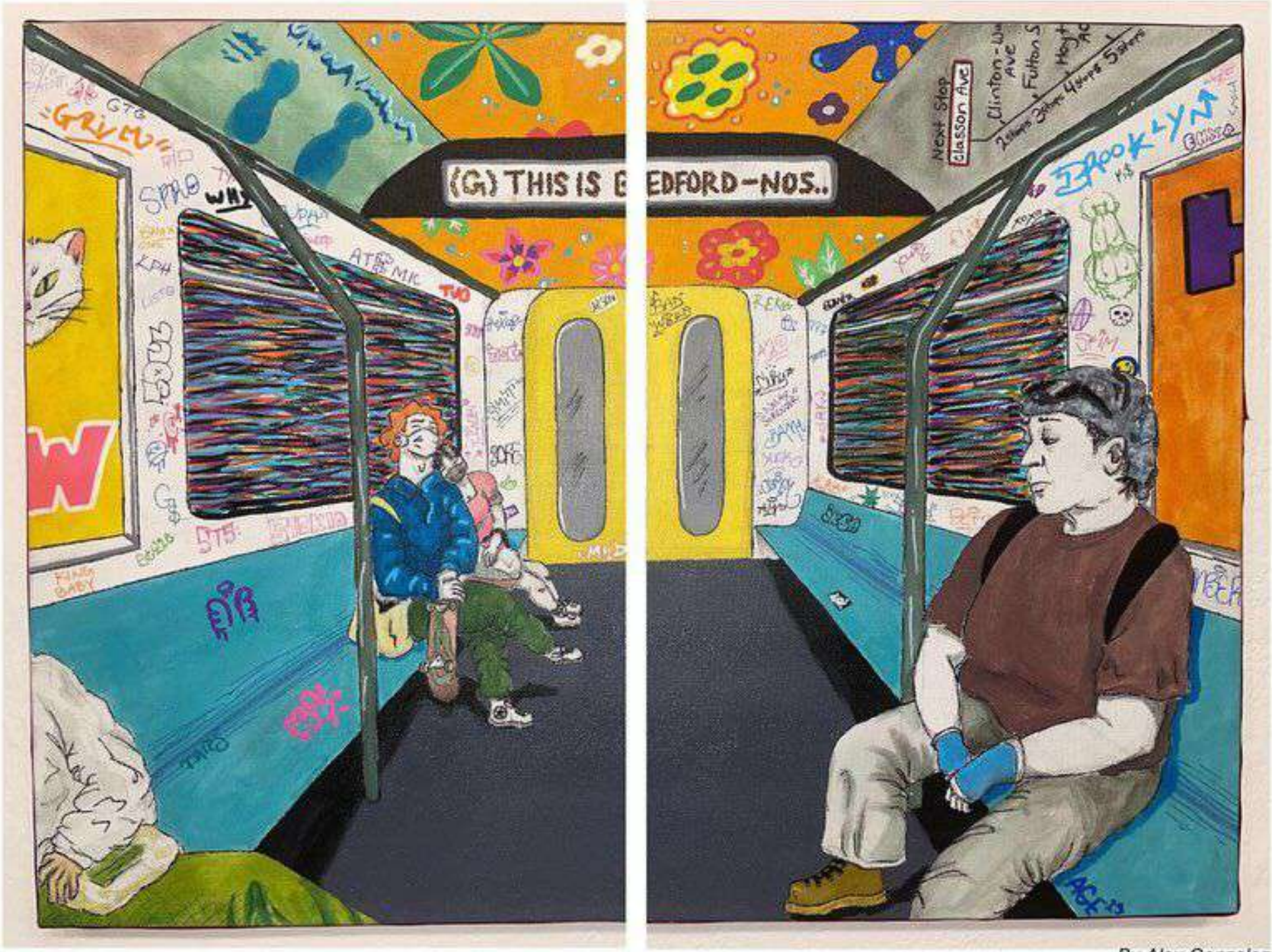
KILLER DRONES

UMass Lowell was invited to, and attended the IEEE COMCAS conference during July 2024 in Tel Aviv. A UMass Lowell Professor and grad student proposed new methods that can be used to improve robotic swarm communication. The attendees of this conference consisted of mostly Israeli professors and IDF officers for military application of the research.

Are UML professors actively accepting funding from the Israeli Ministry of Defense during a genocide? **YES.**

Divest from IDF funding, and end all research complicit in Israeli war crimes on innocent Palestinians.

Donate to Mutual Aid Efforts @ bit.ly/MAForG



By Alex Gonzalez

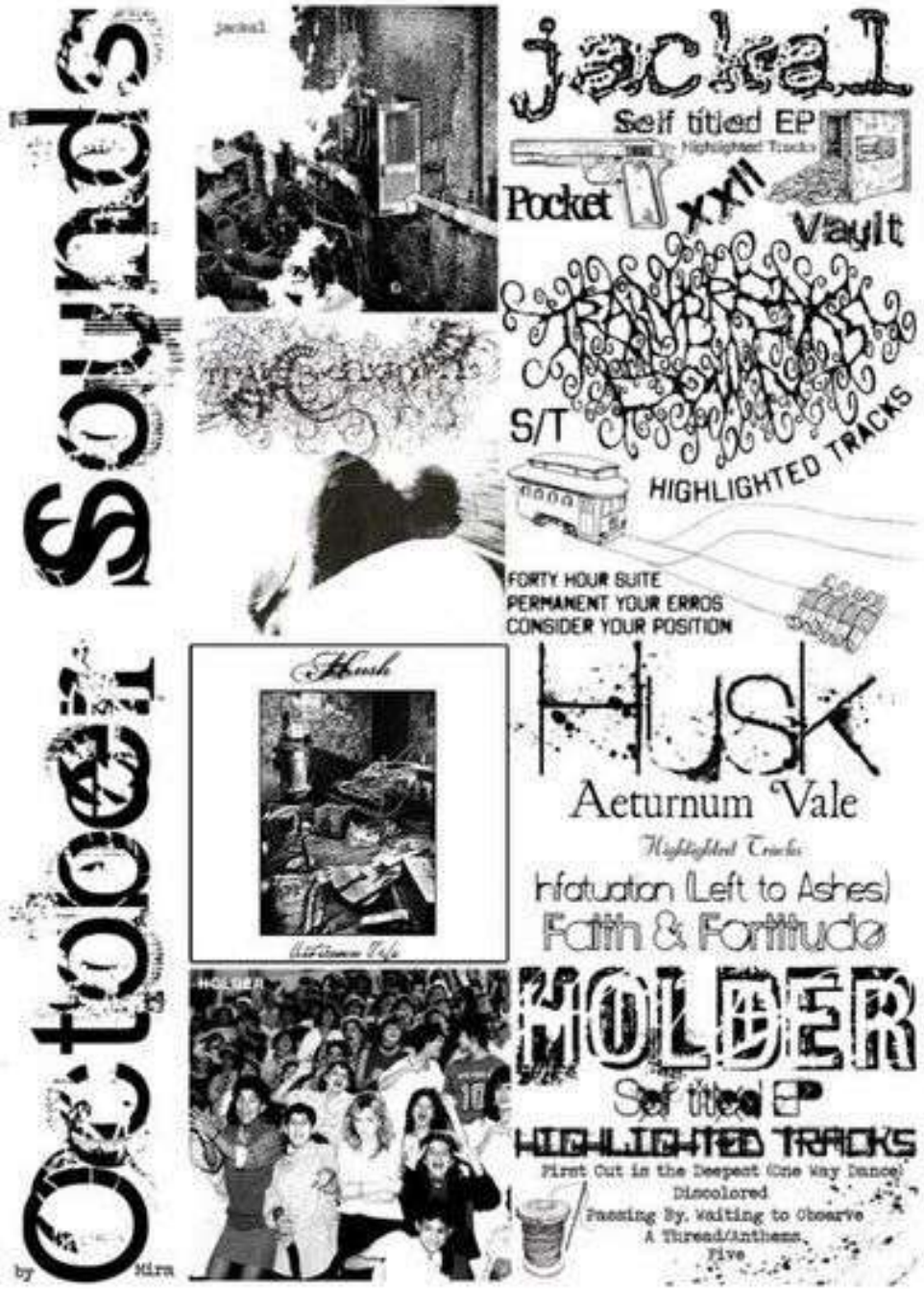
I Don't Like Your Band (and that's okay)
By Jacob Babcock

I often find myself returning to songs written about the inexplicable, evocative nature of music itself. Few things get to the heart of what drives us as creatives more than music about just how fucking great music is! Teenage riot, cut your hair, freak scene, whole of the moon, and the crux of this message - The Replacement's Left Of The Dial, which opens with the eternal -

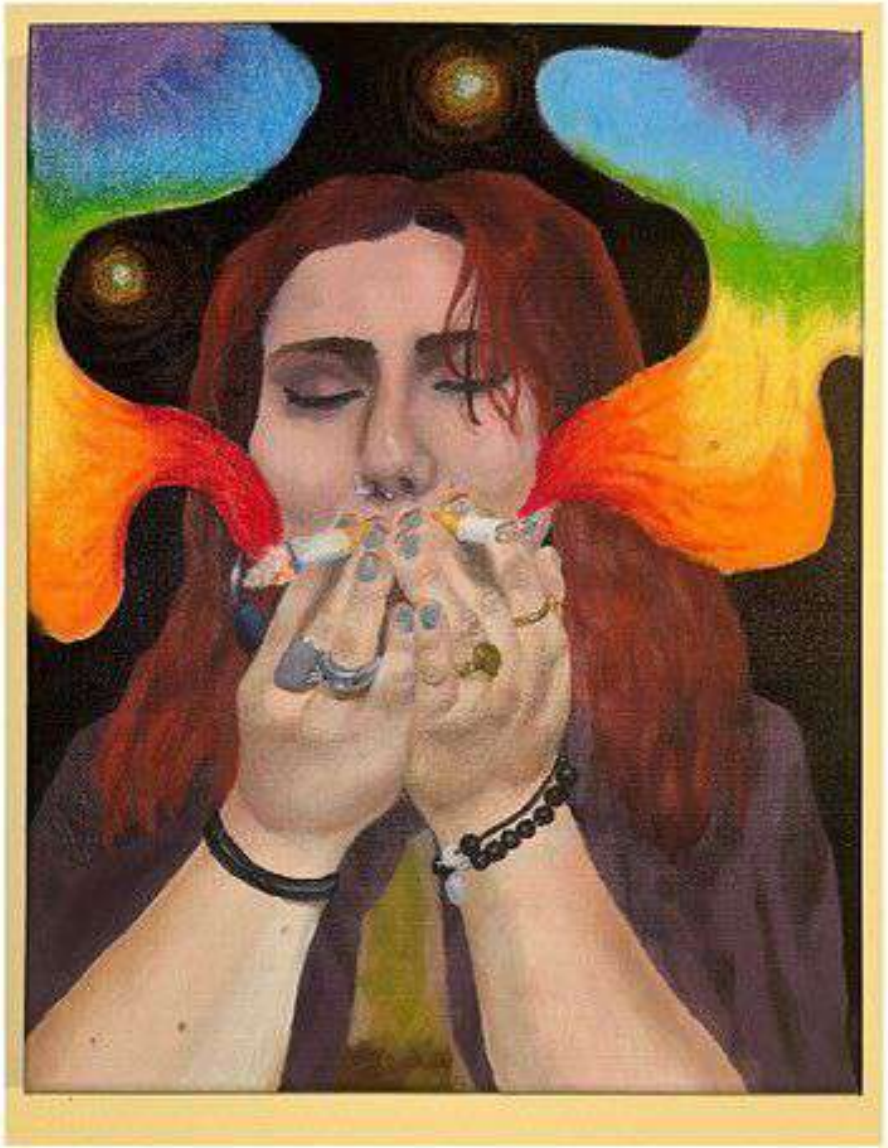
Heard about your band in some local page
They didn't mention your name

At its core, Left of the Dial is a song about community, born from the fertile musical ground that was the midwest circa 1985. More directly, it's a song about the power of college radio, an institution once powerful enough to near-singlehandedly catapult bands like R.E.M. to superstardom (or get The Replacements banned from SNL). Existing within any similar ecosystem is as awe-inspiring as it is terrifying, breeding respect and contempt in equal measure. As a musician within a scene, where do you fit into the great tapestry of burnouts, could-have-beens, and those who supposedly "make it"? Better yet, what the hell does "making it" mean? Throughout Left of the Dial, a question is repeatedly posed - "on and on and on and on/whose side are you on?" *It's something worth interrogating, whose side are we on? What are the sides? On one hand, it's a somewhat sarcastic sendup of the eternal DIY vs. major label war, but on another, it gets to the heart of what being involved in a scene feels like.*
The thing that I most often see discussed hand-in-hand with "making it" is whether those who do so deserve it. It's an unfortunate but understandable position, there are few things more disheartening than pouring your heart and soul into something and feeling like you're getting nothing in return, or watching the people around you cash in on opportunities you've only ever dreamed of. To ignore that reality is to do a direct disservice to the near insurmountable difficulty of committing yourself to the pursuit of the transcendent. Our personal enjoyment of any one person/group of people's work should never triumph over the fact that we're all in this shit together. We are more than a follower count, more than any number of monthly listeners, more than any single gig, we're all just trying to make it happen, whatever that may mean. This is all to say that I may not like your band, but I'll be cheering you on at every step.

Photos by Ben Conte



By Mira



By Alex Gonzalez

Five Tabs of Acid: A Sit Down with Target Scammers

How did Target Scammers come about?

"Me, Michael and Anthony just jammed for a while, for a couple of years, but me and Anthony really wanted to make a punk band. We got together and decided to cover a Descendents song and then I said we should just start writing songs so we started writing them."

You told me earlier you consider what you make pop songs.

"At its heart they're pop songs. I just like to think of pop music as an abstract thing, I guess more of like, a form. But yeah, just pretty much verse, chorus, verse, chorus. We're just writing songs because we have fun and shit. And I feel like that's like, poppy. There isn't a specific purpose. They're fun songs, like pop songs."

If Target Scammers was a movie, what movie would it be?

"Probably Green Room."

"Don't even say that there is a movie"

"Oh yeah, we went on a little mini tour over the summer and I was filming a bunch of stuff on my 3DS. It's called Target Scammers 3D cuz it's in 3D. I haven't started editing yet. I have probably hours and hours of just mostly talking to people. Yeah, I want to try to restore the audio on it a little bit and edit it until, like, an actual documentary."

So is that what's coming next for Target Scammers or is there something else on the horizon?

"I think we're sitting on three songs we want to put out as an EP, we're not sure if we're gonna put it out. We also want to start working on an album. So maybe they'll get rerecorded and put on the album, maybe they'll get put out as three songs."

How do you guys feel about the Xiyyea's Target Scammers Diss Track?

"I think it's hilarious, it's awesome"

"I thought it was fire"

"Shout out Eliot"

"Yeah shout out Eliot we love Eliot"

This is my last question out of my own personal inquiry. I talked about this with Kyle a little bit. I know you're all white boys, but how do you feel about white boys in the punk music scene? Just being so angry, acting like assholes in the pit, what do you make of that? What are your opinions? You know what I'm talking about?

"I know exactly what you mean. I think big, sweaty white dudes are probably the main culprits and I feel like there's just pit etiquette and you can be a dick about it or you can not be a dick about it. I think about it in relation to more metally, like capital H hardcore stuff that has a lot of breakdowns, a lot of people slinging and kicking and stuff. We don't make music that people are meant to do that to. It's actually hard to do that type of thing to our music."

"People just need to start listening to new music and stop being bored and stop listening to shit cuz it's on TikTok. Ever since the late 80s, hardcore got so turned on its head from what it truly means and it's become such a tough guy thing and not about just expressing yourself. Like early Black Flag videos, motherfucker's up there in like the shortest shorts you can think of. Taking the idea of moshing and taking that as a concept and saying you're a "mosher" to the extent that you're hurting people is just too much. Learn to go to a show and have fun. Start smoking weed or something. And obviously I think there are a lot of people that actually do it and don't go hard on people and do it for fun. That does exist."

"It is kind of weird though, because we are like, a harder band, but actual music wise, we try to bring a different vibe People have called us a hardcore band and I don't even think that's true."

"And then there's people who's original thing was go to shows and beat up fucking Nazis and then what you get is just like a bunch of anti Nazi skinheads who are just huge white dudes going crazy in the pit. And it's like you've created basically the exact same thing that all the Nazis are doing, except you guys don't like Nazis, but you're still just a bunch of white dudes fucking beating on people."

"I just want people to have fun, really. That's honestly the root of it. Because I love music, and I like having fun, and I like listening to music, and I like playing it, and I don't think that should involve getting injured. I think it should just be a fun thing, and that's why the music I try to play is upbeat and fun."

LOWELL ON LOVE

We inquired about your relationship quarrels. You anonymously delivered, and now we have answers.

"I feel like I was born to love but I haven't met my person yet and at times it feels like I never will. Dating apps are a dead end and I'm kind of just living my life. My friends say I'll meet someone eventually but that sounds fake. Is that how it works? They just strike you like lightning? What do you think?"

Love is not a tangible object, and won't drop out of the sky onto your lap. Love is something that grows over time. Media about romance has turned romantic love into a social goalpost, rather than something that is a natural part of life. Try to focus on putting all the love you have towards your friends, family, plants, animals, books, music, art, anything you can think of.

To me, there isn't much of a difference between loves, the difference is in how you express it. You may meet someone, and it is highly likely that you will, but even if you do not, you can still live a life so full of love.

"All of these rappers keep saying they fucked my bitch but there is NOOOOOOO WAY my baby would ever do that to me :(O wise rat trap, what do you know?"

Maybe they did, maybe they didn't. You can't control other people's actions, only your reaction. Try to master the art of letting go, so you can truly be in love without fear of the unknown.

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Professional level tracking at our place or yours with quick and dirty records. Affordable and fast engineering for your next song, E.P., or album.

QUICK & DIRTY

@sticky_666

Photos by Ben Conte and Ian Dyer

Lesbiana is an independent singer-songwriter who specializes in folk rock.

Her first single, Pandora's Box, was recorded at age 15 during a week-long summer camp. Since then, she's acquired an autoharp and created an eerie and haunting new version of the song, as well as a music video made up of footage from a silent German film of the 1920s.
Her debut album dropped Oct 11
https://lesbiana.bandcamp.com/album/lesbiana

Photos by Maggie Dineen and Ben Conte

ATTIC

got submissions?
Got gigs coming up? Wanna talk about your band? Do you make art, write or take pictures? Involved in community events?
Questions about your love life?
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